

AMERICAN WEST COAST

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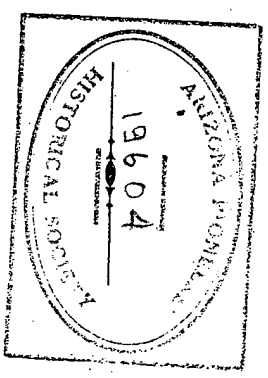
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1873.



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284 REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

These Indians have always been celebrated for virtue, industry, and integrity, and no doubt their good conduct is, to a great extent, due to the labors of the Catholic fathers who built a mission for their instruction at San Xavier del Bac, over a century ago. Through the hostility of other Indians, and internal strife among the people of Mexico, the mission has for many years been going to decay; but the Papagos still linger around it, fondly cherishing the memory of the past, and adhering to a great extent to the precepts that were taught them.

I have received \$2,500 to be devoted to educational purposes, and with this sum I have erected a school-house. The building is over one hundred feet long, surrounded by a good wall, and is conveniently divided into rooms for the accommodation of classes and teachers, and is in every way admirably arranged for the comfort and convenience of both pupils and teachers.

I have engaged two Sisters from Saint Joseph's Academy to teach the school. This selection gives great satisfaction to the Indians, and it being with the sisters a labor of love, I have great hopes that the school will be the means of promoting much good. I believe it to be highly necessary to teach some of the boys mechanical trades, and a number have expressed a strong desire to have their boys so instructed. I have said for them to have a considerable amount of mechanical work done, such as making and repairing plows, carts, &c., and as they progress their necessity will increase. I would, therefore, recommend the building of a blacksmith and wagon shop, and the employment of two good mechanics to perform the work for the agency, and to teach such of the boys trades as desire to learn and show a facility for it; by this means in two or three years they could do their own mechanical labor; besides, it would serve to stimulate them to a higher order of civilization.

Their agricultural pursuits have been fairly rewarded this year; the yield has been very satisfactory, and they have cultivated, in addition to the old lands that they have so long used, a considerable portion of new land. This, in connection with many natural products they gather, and the proceeds of labor they perform for others, will be sufficient for all their wants, and afford them the means of living more comfortably than at any period for years before.

In accordance with instructions from the Department, I have ordered a map made, which will soon be completed, of that portion of country which they desire set apart for a reservation, and I would most earnestly recommend that either this or some other locality suitable to their wants be set apart for them, so that they may, without molestation, enjoy and have security in their homes.

The health of the Indians during the past year has been good, and at no period since the acquisition of the Territory by the United States have they appeared so contented and happy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

R. A. WILBUR,
United States Indian Agent.

56.

COLORADO RIVER RESERVATION,
Paria, Ariz. Terr., August 30, 1873.
SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report for the year ending this date:

Since my last annual report the Hualpais have been placed under my charge. This people range through the country north and east of the Mojaves. Their strength has been variously estimated at from 1,200 to 1,600, but the number fed at Camp Beales Springs, where they have been collected during the year past, has not averaged more than 600. It is my intention to remove them to this reservation in October next, where they can be fed with less expense to the Government.

The Chinmeuevis and Yumas, who have never been on this reservation, will also be removed thither, as soon as the irrigating canal is finished, which will probably be during the coming winter.

Continual trouble is being experienced by the squatting of Mexicans near the boundary-line of the reservation, who tamper with the Indians, and attempt to introduce liquor among them. The only remedy I can suggest is to extend the reserve to the south to take in the abandoned town of La Paz, and to the east to include in its limits all the bottom-land between the river and the edge of the mesa. The proposed increase would take in all the land which has any value, and would inclose the reservation within natural boundaries. By this extension no rights would be interfered with, as no claims are recorded; consequently no difficulty will result from taking in this land.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. 285

The Chinmeuevis and Yumas have not been regularly fed, as I consider it impolitic to give anything to Indians who are not on reservations, except to prevent absolute suffering. They have been accustomed to raise their own crops; and, as soon as the irrigating canal is finished, I shall remove them to the reservation, and assign them sufficient ground for their support.

The canal by which it is intended to irrigate this reservation has been pushed forward since my last report. A tunnel has been cut for 430 feet through the solid rock; the commencement of the summer, on account of the rise in the river. The water will, however, shortly fall, and work will be resumed, with a prospect of being finished this winter.

The Indians object to labor, except for money. They should not, I think, be indulged in their idle habits, and I desire to have a sufficient force stationed on the reserve to compel them to work for their own benefit without compensation, save rations. My opinion is that the Indian must be made self-sustaining before he becomes susceptible to the influences of missionaries or teachers.

The crops of all the river Indians will be much smaller than usual this year, owing to the lateness of the river in rising, and the small overflow.

The Hualpai Indians, at Camp Beales Springs, object to coming upon this reservation; but they are now settled directly upon one of the principal lines of travel; settlements and mining-camps are springing up all around them, and I agree with the Department commander (General Crook) that the only way to avoid serious complications with the two tribes I consider this one preferable, for the reason that with the Mojaves the Rio Verde reservation, Apache-Mojaves and Apaches, they have been more or less hostile, and have lately fought against them as soldiers under General Crook. I have requested the Department commander to furnish a sufficient force to coerce them to move, and to remain with them for a time until they become thoroughly submissive. I would desire to call the attention of the Commissioner to the necessity of increasing the salaries allowed employees; the compensation offered by the Department is usually so much lower than that given by the other bureaus of the Government in Arizona that it is very difficult to secure good employees.

Good, reliable interpreters are also difficult to obtain, and I would suggest the sending of one or two boys from each tribe to the Howard University, to be fitted for positions as interpreters and school-teachers; absolute separation from their parents and people is necessary to education and elevation.

We had a school in operation for six months, but had to close it in April last, on account of the inadequate salary allowed the teacher. While it continued, such children as attended made very good progress; but they were not many, as the parents are prejudiced against learning, and, besides, exercise no control over their children. Lately, when acting as superintendent of Indian affairs, I discontinued feeding the Mojaves who live about Camp Mojave. This section of the tribe have never come upon the reservation. They number about 800, and I expect them during the coming winter, as I hear their crops have failed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, Washington, D. C.
J. A. FORMER, Former Indian Agent.

57.

MOQUI PUENO INDIAN AGENCY, ARIZ. Terr.,
December 30, 1873.
SIR: I have the honor herewith to submit my first annual report, in compliance with copy of circular of June 30, 1873.

W. D. Crothers, my predecessor, and myself exchanged papers on the 9th of July, he relieving me at the Sierra Amarilla agency, New Mexico, and I taking charge of the Moqui Pueblo Indians of Arizona Territory. As soon thereafter as possible I visited the Indians under my care, and met with more than an ordinary cordial reception from them, owing to the fact that the night preceding the morning of my arrival, and the night following, we had quite a good deal of rain, much needed by their growing crops. Their new Tapa agent and the rain coming together they expressed it as a very propitious omen, the Great Father's pleasure; that He had been angry with them for some time, but now a brighter day was dawning for them. I found them very superstitious. I have endeavored to disabuse them of their

att will take time, a civilizing and Christianizing influence thrown around them to as them from it.

From reports I had concerning their houses I was prepared to see desolation and barrenness, but I am free to acknowledge I had not, in the worst pictures I had formed, imagined anything nearly so desolate as it appeared when there, and as it was in fact, better condition as to locality and surroundings you are fully advised of in previous reports.

I am pleased to advise the Department that there is, on the part of the Indians of different villages, a growing disposition to harmonize one with the other. There are at present a better feeling existing than for some years back. As I advised you in my former reports the Oreybos, those Indians affected with a bad feeling toward other villages, and toward the agent, are now inclined to be friendly, and seem very anxious that I should go among them to live.

In previous reports I strongly recommended the removal of the Moquis to a more suitable place for farming and grazing. I also sent in an estimate for funds to build an agency-house, school-house, mill, to open a saw-mill, &c. I have received \$1,500 for the purpose of erecting agency building, and one school-house; I have also received permission from the honorable Commissioner to build at the place to which I will remove Moquis; I have already commenced operations preparatory to building.

I would earnestly recommend that the Department and these Indians to the extent my estimate in opening up this place and in building a mill, &c. I believe that if a Government would assist them in establishing themselves in this new place that it will prove the most economical plan; for by helping them now, in this way, you will enable them to help themselves, and can sooner withdraw the aid the Department so readily furnishes them now. At the expiration of from three to five years, at the latest, they would not require help from the Government, and be in a better condition than they are at present with assistance. I base my belief upon the fact that they are an industrious people, and if they are assisted with a start in a good place, where their labor will be rewarded by good crops, they would have abundance for home consumption and plenty to dispose of; while the little assistance rendered them by Government, although thankfully received by them, does not in reality do them much good.

Their crop, promising so fair in the early part of the season resulted in little better in a failure. I fear there will be some suffering among them this winter and spring. I will employ the Moquis in the erection of buildings, which will greatly relieve their feelings.

They are much pleased that they are to receive sheep this year. I would heartily commend that as long as it is the pleasure of the Department to aid these people in this way. Aside from a little brown mule, let them have stock, as it does to a more substantial good than anything else.

These Indians should have more schools. There is one in operation with a good average attendance. The children have made excellent progress in their studies. I have purchased a blackboard for use in the school, an article long needed. I hope in a short time to report more favorable on my school as soon as we get into our new school-house. Three other schools could be started, with a good attendance, one at each of the other pueblos.

The health of the Moquis is good. They live lives of virtue; consequently they are free from disease. It is impossible for me at this time to estimate the amount of land owned by the Moquis, as it is in patches and scattered over a great deal of territory. I hope soon to make an improvement, as soon as I can get them to move to their new place, where I will give to each family a little farm, adjoining one another; have all land farmed in a body, so we can know just what they are doing.

Regarding my report has been so long delayed, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. DEFREES,
United States Indian Agent for Moqui Pueblo Indians.
J. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

58.

OFFICE OF AGENCY RIO VERDE INDIAN RESERVATION, ARIZ. TERR.,
September 1, 1873.

J. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs at agency during the past year:

Shortly after my last annual report, it having been attempted by General Crook to

arrest some Indians at Date Creek who were supposed to have been concerned in the Loring stage massacre, there was a general stampede of the Indians to the mountains, where they remained for several weeks. Ultimately, after sending out runners to them with friendly assurances, the greater portion of them returned to the agency. Nothing of unusual importance occurred after their return to the agency. In April that it had been decided to remove them to their permanent home at the Rio Verde. At this many of them expressed great dissatisfaction, and Jemaspie, head-chief of the Apache Yumas, positively refused to go there, stating that he was at present living in his own country, and contented to remain where he was. A few days before the time for their removal to the Verde, Jemaspie and a number of his Indians left during the night, making their way to the Colorado River, and afterward going on to the Indian reservation there. This band were soon afterward brought over to the Verde by the military. The remainder of the Indians, numbering about 360, under the charge of Lieutenant Schuyler, United States Army, started on Thursday, May 1, for the Rio Verde reservation, where they arrived on May 12. Meanwhile, General Cook having declared peace with the Indians, the Apache and Apache Mohave Indians in the vicinity of the Rio Verde came into Camp Verde in large numbers, and it became necessary for me to leave Date Creek for that place, in order to assume charge of the and to remove them to this reservation. This, in compliance with instructions from the superintendent, I did, arriving at Camp Verde on April 27.

As soon as I could procure the necessary transportation for supplies, May 8, I removed the Indians, numbering 1,120, from the military reservation to this reserve. The agency-camp I located in a suitable place about eighteen miles from the military post. The Indians I camped at points within five miles of the agency. The superintendent failing to supply implements, tools, &c., for which I had made requisition, was necessarily very up-hill work. The military loaned me a few axes, picks, and spades, and these, with a small supply afterward purchased, composed the main part of the tools with which to employ the Indians, and do the needed work at the agency. Owing to the small supply of implements and the lack of an irrigating canal to supply the needed moisture, together with the lateness of the season, only a few small patches of land have been brought under cultivation by the Indians. Many of them raised considerable crops.

The Apache Indians, numbering about 900, left the reserve for the mountains on the 12th of August. This movement was induced by a renegade Apache, named Chapo, from Camp Apache, who reported to them that a number of soldiers and Indian scouts were coming from the lower country to massacre them. A runner was sent out from Camp Verde to bring in Eschelepean, their head chief, and after his arrival, in a conference with General Crook, having been convinced of the falsehood of the report, and of the good intention of the whites toward them, he expressed himself ashamed and sorry that he had left the reserve, and promised to return to the reserve, and to endeavor to induce the others to do so, too. Up to this date about 586 warriors. This Indian has the reputation of being one of the worst and most inveterate enemies of the whites in the Territory. He had gone on to the Camp Apache reservation after the proclamation of peace by General Crook in the spring, having been severely handled during the winter campaign. It was reported that his life had been threatened by Indians at Camp Apache, and that consequently he had left that agency. General Crook, believing the report to be true, requested me to receive him on to this reserve, in case he came here. In accordance with this request I told Delcbe that he might bring his people on to the reserve, providing he would behave himself, which he promised to do. I also told him that this was the last opportunity that would be given him to live on a reservation.

The Apache Yumas and Apache Mohaves from Date Creek have, since their arrival here, behaved well, and seem desirous of remaining upon good terms with the agent and with the white population generally. They are also more ready to learn and to adopt the customs of civilization than the others, many of them wearing ordinary clothing, using improved cooking-utensils, building superior cabins, keeping their camps or villages policed, &c.

The Apaches are in a more untamed state, and it is likely that there will be considerable trouble in reducing them to such a contented state of mind as will be favorable to their rapid advancement in civilization.

The aggregated number of the Indians on this reserve increased at one time to over 2,000. About 40 Indians belonging to the various tribes here are enlisted in the United States service as scouts, and they have proved very efficient in the discharge of their duties. There is a detachment of 15 United States soldiers, under charge of Lieutenant Schuyler, stationed near the agency. A few arrests of Indians have been made for absence from the reserve without pass, for stealing, misinterpreting, and attempting to kill a squaw. This latter case was a result of a system which the Indians follow of